



"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

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VII—(continued).

HERAW, ON our coming, with Gen. Mower's command ahead, and himself leading his division in his own indomitable style, appeared to be pretty thoroughly defended with intrenchments and outworks. The Confederate cavalry met us at Thompson's Creek, but being cavalry alone they quickly gave way on Mower's coming, but set the bridge over the creek on fire. Our men quenched the fire at once and followed speedily nearer to town. A firmer stand was made here by our adversaries, probably to enable the Confederates to cover the next bridge across the Pee Dee just beyond Cheraw with resin or turpentine. At last, as the Confederates rushed across, they succeeded in setting behind them a quick fire, and one that became immediately so furious that Mower's men could not preserve the bridge.

Here, as at Columbia, a depot and several storehouses were already in flames as our men entered the city. Quite a large amount of war material came into our hands by capture. By the newspapers which I found there the news of the taking of Charleston, and also of Wilmington, was confirmed.

Here is where we met and ruminated upon the action of the Confederate Congress, putting into service boys and old men. That body was also considering the expediency of organizing negro troops. In this we had already too much the start of them. Terry was near us with negro brigades well in hand.

About this time old men and boys began to fall into our lines. Gen. Logan recommended on the 4th of March that all such prisoners belonging to the South Carolina militia be released upon their parole and oath not to serve again during the war. He remarked: "They are now but a burthen to us, requiring an issue of subsistence, when it is necessary to husband our supply, and they can scarcely be looked upon as fit subjects for imprisonment or exchange." I am confident that this sensible disposition of them was made.

There were two sources of chagrin which annoyed me at Cheraw; one was that a detachment which I sent to Florence had not been sufficiently vigorous in its reconnaissance. The officers conducting it, however, discovered a force of Confederate cavalry, and trains of cars loaded with troops, and brought back 20 or 30 prisoners.

The second chagrin was from an accident like that at Columbia, S. C. Here, at Cheraw, Gen. Chas. R. Woods's Division of infantry was mowed near the river, waiting their turn to cross, when a terrific explosion occurred. It was occasioned by our working parties having thrown together on the slope, near the river, masses of artillery shells, with considerable powder.

The object had been to drown the powder in the river, and also sink the shells in the water to render them useless. From carelessness considerable powder had been strewn along the ground. The teams

Fayetteville. Gen. Sherman, already having news of accessions to Hardee's force from above and below and from the east, and also some information that his old contestant, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, was again in command, wrote me that he believed that the Confederates would make a stand for battle near Fayetteville west of the Cape Fear River. I answered that I thought not, unless we pushed them so hard that they could not get out of the way. The position might have been good against my column alone, but at this time Slocum was so near me that Johnston would have had to encounter Sherman's entire force.

This I felt from past experience to be far from Johnston's wary purpose. The events proved that my judgment was correct, for this astute Confederate commander, realizing his relative weakness, waited a little till the two wings had separated the one from the other. As we shall shortly see, he

to what was called Little Rock Fish Creek Bridge, which was unaccountably spared by the enemy.

Of this Duncan immediately took possession. Very early the next morning (March 11) I instructed Duncan to take all our mounted men (his own and Capt. King's) and scout toward Fayetteville and keep us informed of what was going on. He again encountered the enemy's pickets just before reaching the city. He drove them so easily before him that he did not anticipate much force ahead, and so pressed on into the city itself. Duncan, while caring for his men,

DISCOVERED A LARGE FORCE of cavalry on some high ground ready to pounce upon him. He succeeded, however, in saving his command, but he himself was captured.

Gen. Sherman in his Memoirs affords us an interesting picture of Duncan after his escape from the Confederates, when he came into his (Sherman's) bivouac, having been stripped of everything valuable, and being clothed in an old unpresentable dress. The account of Duncan's interviews with Butler, Hampton, and Hardee was very entertaining, and is still, as he very vividly recalls them, Gen. Hardee, Duncan declares, treated him with kindness, but was very anxious to find how he had happened to seize the bridge and pass the pickets with so small a force of horsemen.

Duncan's men reported to us that same day the circumstances, so that Giles A. Smith's column could not safely delay any longer. He (Smith) sent forward at once a troop of mounted men. They joined the returning scouts, then followed up the Confederate cavalry as

Just as soon as a bridge-head of sufficient extent was secured I put my Headquarters the 13th of March near Mr. Cade's house, and stayed there till the 16th of the same month.

When we were at Laurel Hill, five days before this, Gen. Sherman, Gen. Logan and myself, with our usual accompaniments, were encamped near each other. At that camp we felt pretty



well assured on comparing notes that Schofield had reached the coast near New Bern and that Wilmington was in our possession.

Gen. Sherman very much desired to get communications to Wilmington, and, if possible, receive back word from the same, while Logan and I were anxious to re-establish mail communication. After consulting with Capt. Duncan, I selected Serg't Myron J. Amick, 15th Ill. Cav., and Private Geo. W. Quimby, 32d Wis,

us mails, sugar, coffee, shoes and forage supplies that were most welcome.

It was here that Gen. Sherman took advantage of returning steamers to send our sick to better accommodations and to forward mail for the whole command. The remaining space on the vessels was occupied by refugees, whom I have before described. Besides these, a column of whites and negroes, with all their indescribable belongings, was organized in a military way and sent down the river road.

From the numerous men going out of service, I furnished them abundant guard and wagons sufficient to carry the small children, the sick, and extra food. A paragraph from my report will afford a glimpse: "It was a singular spectacle—that immense column of every color and every possible description—that drew out of camp on Wednesday, the 15th of March, 1865, and set out for Wilmington via Clinton. There were 4,500, mostly negroes, from my wing alone.

Feeling pretty sure that Joe Johnston, our new adversary, who was somewhere in our path, would soon make a stand or an attack, the entire command, under Sherman's instructions, stripped for battle; that is to say, the wagon-trains, except those absolutely essential, were thrown back, kept well together, and placed

UNDER SPECIAL ESCORT, covered, besides, of course, by the rear-guard.

Slocum, deviating from our more direct march toward Goldsboro, went by way of Kyle's Landing, aiming for Bentonville, while his wagon-train followed the Goldsboro route.

Kilpatrick's cavalry was undertaking to clear the way on Slocum's left and front. Slocum found the 16th of March a large Confederate force across his way. It proved to be Hardee, and not Johnston, in immediate command. A few words from Slocum's account will keep up the connection. "Kilpatrick," he wrote, "came upon the enemy behind a line of intrenchments. He moved his cavalry to the right, while Jackson's and Ward's two Divisions of the Twentieth Corps were deployed in front of the enemy's line.

"Gen. Sherman, who had just joined me at that time, directed me [Slocum] to send a brigade to the left, in order to get in rear of the intrenchments, which was done, and resulted in the retreat of the enemy and in the capture of Macbeth's Charleston Battery and 217 of Rhett's men. The Confederates were found behind another line of works, a short distance in the rear of the first."

Slocum skirmished up to the new position, and went into camp "in their immediate front." Slocum further says: "During the night Hardee retreated, leaving 108 dead for us to bury and 68 wounded. We lost 12 officers and 65 men killed and 477 men wounded."

Johnston remarks, touching the same battle, that Hardee was informed by Hampton that we had crossed the Black River, as if to turn his left; he, therefore, abandoned his position in the night and marched toward Smithfield to Elevation. Hardee's loss in the previous fighting, as he claimed, was about 500.

It is evident that my movement across the Black River and touching the Averysboro road on that same day, where I was waiting to turn back upon Hardee's left, was what

CAUSED HIM TO RETREAT without further battle. Now, it is plain from all accounts that Gen. Johnston in good earnest was gathering in all the troops he could at or near Bentonville. He mentions Gen. Stephen D. Lee, Stevenson, Stewart, Cheatham, Hampton, and Hardee as near at hand.

Johnston's instructions, which he received from Richmond the 23d of February at his residence, in Lincoln, N. C., were: "To concentrate all available forces and drive back Sherman." \* \* \* "This was done," Johnston alleges, "with a full consciousness on my part, however, that we could have no other object in continuing the war than to obtain fair terms of peace; for the Southern cause must have appeared hopeless then to all intelligent and dispassionate Southern men."

With these instructions and this natural feeling, Johnston gathered from all quarters, as near as I can estimate it from the different accounts, from 20,000 to 25,000 men.

The 18th of March Slocum's wing was continuing its advance toward Bentonville. My wing the same day upon the next road to the south was doing the same thing, but from the character of the country I was obliged to deviate so much that our wings were separated more and more from each other till Logan turned northward and encamped near Alex. Benton's, about 11 miles south of Bentonville, while Blair was back near Troublesfield's Store.

Slocum at the same time appeared to be abreast of Logan, perhaps six miles northwest of him. We had but little resistance on our front, and all that was from Confederate cavalry. The roads, which appeared fair, became immediately bad by use, and so straggled my column.

(To be continued.)  
An Approaching Possibility.  
[New York Press.]  
In the future it may be necessary to specify whether you want your photograph with or without bones.

## A NOBLE BAND.

Sterling Work Performed by the Fourth Michigan Cavalry.

FOUGHT JOHN MORGAN.

First Troops to Enter Murfreesboro After Stone River.

## DAILY CONTESTS.

Closed Its Career with Capture of Jeff Davis.

BY R. H. G. MINTY, BVT. MAJOR-GENERAL, U. S. V.

IN YOUR ISSUE of Nov. 28 you give what purports to be a sketch of the history of the 4th Mich. Cav., which, abbreviated as it is, fails to do justice to one of the most distinguished regiments in the service.

"Michigan in the War," the official history of the Michigan regiments, compiled by the Adjutant-General of the State under the authority of a special act of the Legislature, devotes 49 pages to this regiment, being more than double the space given to any other regiment from the State; and within 12 pages of the space given the entire of "Custer's Michigan Brigade," which was composed of four as splendid regiments as could be found in our armies; viz., the 1st, 5th, 6th and 7th Michigan Cav.

The 4th Mich. Cav. was organized at Detroit in August, 1862. Camp was opened on the 14th day of August, and



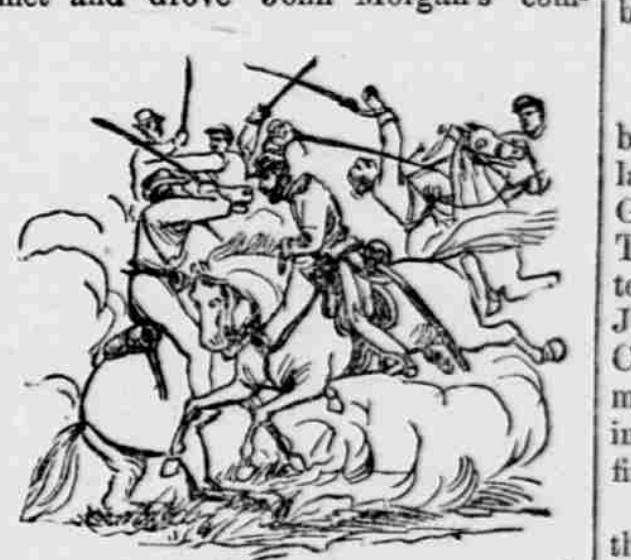
14 days later 1,208 enlisted men, with the full complement of officers, were mustered into the United States service. In addition to this, a splendid company, commanded by Henry E. Thompson, had to be refused. This company, later, became Co. A in the 6th Mich. Cav.

The field officers of the regiment were: Colonel, R. H. G. Minty, from Lieutenant-Colonel, 3d Mich. Cav.; Lieutenant-Colonel, W. H. Dickinson, from Captain, 3d Mich. Cav.; Major—J. B. Park, from Captain, 1st Mich. Cav.; Horace Gray, of Gross Isle, Mich.; J. W. Huston, formerly Lieutenant, 3d Mich. Cav.

The regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland at Danville, Ky., at three o'clock a. m., Oct. 14, 1862, and

ITS FIRST ENGAGEMENT was with John Morgan's command at Stamford, Ky., at 10 o'clock the same Monday; on which occasion Col. Kennett, commanding the division, complimented it on its steadiness under fire.

On Nov. 8 it crossed the Cumberland River at Gallatin, Tenn., in advance of Maj.-Gen. Crittenden's Corps, met and drove John Morgan's com-



THEIR FIRST ENGAGEMENT. mand into and through Lebanon, made many prisoners, and captured the entire of his train, consisting of 17 wagons and a large number of horses and mules. It moved in advance of Crittenden's Corps to the relief of Nashville, then held by Gen. Negley's Division and being threatened by Gen. Bragg.

On Dec. 8 Col. Minty was assigned to the command of the First Brigade of Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland, consisting of the 4th Mich., 7th Pa., 3d Ky., and Lieut. Newell's section of Battery D, 1st Ohio Art.; Lieut.-Col. Dickinson in command of the regiment.

On Dec. 26 the brigade left Nashville in advance of the left wing of the army, on the Nashville and Murfreesboro road.

The 4th Mich., in advance, struck the enemy near and drove them through Laverne, 15 miles from Nashville.

The regiment took an active part in the battle of Stone River, during which, on the evening of Dec. 31, it, with its brigade, engaged and drove from the field south of Overall's Creek the en-



DRIVING THEM FROM THE FIELD my's cavalry, consisting of Wheeler's, Wharton's and Buford's Brigades. It was with the first troops to enter Murfreesboro, and had sharp fighting with Bragg's rear-guard on the Manchester pike on Jan. 4.

Shortly after the battle of Stone River, Feb. 18, 1863, LIEUT.-COL. DICKINSON RETIRED on account of ill-health; Maj. Park was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and Capt. Mix, of Co. B, to Major.

During the six months in which the army lay at Murfreesboro several changes were made in the personnel of the brigade. The 2d Ind. and 3d Ky. were detached from it, the 4th Regulars, and 5th Tenn. were assigned to it, and it was designated First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division.

It was active to a marked degree, was almost daily engaged with the enemy, and distinguished itself on many occasions.

Gen. Rosecrans, in General Orders, complimented the brigade for a dashing saber charge, in which it had signally routed Russell's Brigade of Confederate cavalry, capturing their entire camp and transportation, killing or wounding 64 and capturing 100, including 51 wounded with sabers. In this order he said: "In consideration of the dash and gallantry displayed by this brigade on all occasions, it shall hereafter be known in this Department as the 'Saber Brigade' of the Army of the Cumberland."

In the battle of Shelbyville, on June 27, 1863, the 4th Mich. Cav. was sent to the right, where it forced its way through a heavy abatis, entered the works, and taking the enemy—Wheeler's and Martin's Divisions—in flank, swept up the intrenchments until it joined its brigade, which had carried the center by a dashing charge. In this the 4th made prisoners from eight regiments.



MAJ. BURNS. During the advance on Chattanooga the regiment distinguished itself in the fights with Gen. Dillrell at Sparta on Aug. 8 and 17.

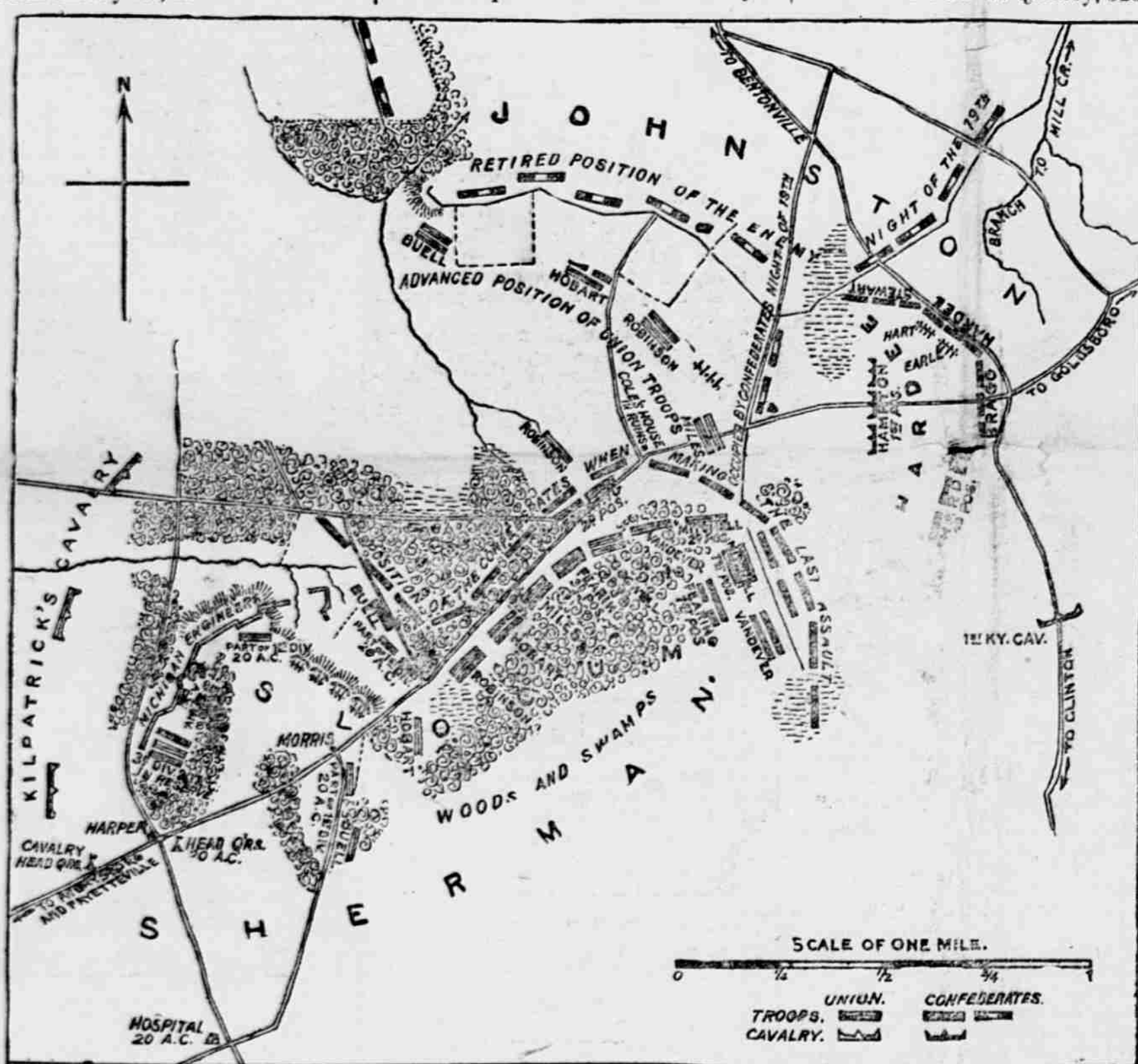
On Aug. 23 Maj. Huston, who had been completely prostrated by acute rheumatism, resigned, and Capt. Robbins, of Co. F, was

PROMOTED MAJOR. On Sept. 18 the regiment, with its brigade, then composed of the 4th Regulars, 7th Pa., 4th Mich., and Lieut. Griffin's section of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery, fought Hood's Corps, temporarily commanded by Bushrod Johnson, at Reed's Bridge, across the Chickamauga, from 6 o'clock in the morning until after 4 o'clock that evening, and during that time fell back only five miles.

On the 19th it assisted in covering the withdrawal of Rosecrans's transportation to Chattanooga. It was on the extreme left of the army on the 20th, and on the withdrawal of the reserve corps, commanded by Gen. Gordon Granger, from McAfee's Church, to support Gen. Thomas at Snodgrass Hill, the 4th Mich., with its brigade, occupied that position, and about dark drove Scott's Brigade of rebel cavalry across the Chickamauga at Red House Bridge.

During the night of the 20th Gen. Thomas retired his army to Rossville Gap, and on the morning of the 21st the brigade was two miles and a half in front of Gen. Thomas's position.

At about 8 o'clock the enemy's cavalry, Pegram's Division, and Scott's and Davidson's Brigades advanced. The brigade fought them from McAfee's



## BATTLE OF BENTONVILLE, N. C.

STUCK SLOCUM FIRST because he was handiest; i. e., after Slocum had deviated northward and was passing through Averysboro.

Going on the 8th of March, I made my Headquarters for the night at Laurel Hill, Richmond County, N. C. It was this day that we crossed the line between South and North Carolina at eight o'clock in the morning. The Fifteenth Corps was around me, and the Seventeenth a little in advance. Slocum's command—that is, the left wing—was not many miles to the north, and well up abreast. That evening Gen. Sherman requested me if possible while pursuing

they ran, and as the Confederate rear-guard was crossing the river soon had possession of the hill where the Fayetteville Arsenal was situated.

Just as the last Confederate horseman was clearing the bridge over the Cape Fear, Potts's Brigade, the leading one of Smith's Division, arrived on the field. Potts first took position on Arsenal Hill, and then quickly deployed his skirmishers along the river-bank under instructions to make every endeavor to save the bridge. But the preparation for its destruction had this time been made in season.

The Confederates placed their cannon in a good position on the farther shore, and shelled our skirmish-lines, regardless of the houses of Fayetteville, while the long bridge was bursting into

A BRILLIANT FLAME, so that our skirmishers could not save it. As our columns came in from the south roads, Slocum's leading corps, the Fourteenth, entered the town from the northwest. The Mayor, doubtless having been attracted by Capt. Duncan's daring raid to the southern part of the town, hastened toward us, and so, made a formal tender of the city to Lieut.-Col. Strong, of my staff.

Many of our men, mounted foragers and others, were found lying dead in the streets. Remembering Gen. Sherman's wishes, as soon as I met in the streets Gen. Slocum himself, I retired outside the city limits, and there went into camp.

Logan halted his command at least five miles back. We found the best practicable approaches for our pontoon-bridge a mile below Fayetteville, opposite Mr. Cade's plantation. The banks, however, even here were steep and difficult. The water was subsiding, so that in a short time our bridge was depressed, and the wagons were lowered on one side of the river, and to use an old English word, "boosted" up by soldiers on the other with much labor.

the two enlisted men who, it will be remembered, had made the perilous and successful expedition down the Ogeechee near Savannah, through the enemy's lines, and communicated with the fleet; these, furnished with as much mail matter, as well as dispatches, as they could comfortably carry, I started off for Wilmington.

Sherman had sent another messenger to float down the Cape Fear. My party crossed the river at Campbell's Bridge and succeeded in avoiding or in deceiving squads of the enemy's cavalry or other hostiles whom they met, and finished their journey successfully in 48 hours. Just after our arrival at Fayetteville, and after the first excitement of the skirmishing had subsided, we heard the

WHISTLE OF A STEAM-TUG below us on the Cape Fear River. This vessel had set out at once for Fayetteville on receiving news through Serg't



Amick and his companion of our whereabouts. Shortly before this some of Blair's men, skirmishing down the river, had discovered a small Confederate steamer and captured it, with its freight of cotton and forage.

The 15th of the month one of our gunboats reached us and was soon followed by other steamers. They brought



VIEW OF BENTONVILLE, N. C.

passing along over the bridge had in some way ignited a train of it, which quickly conducted the lightning flashes to the main pile of shells. The sudden thunderous explosion for the time appeared to paralyze men and animals. The mules and horses, soonest over the daze, ran off wildly in a stampede. One officer and three enlisted men were killed outright, and at least a dozen or more of the soldiers were wounded.

SO MUCH CARELESSNESS! followed acts of inexcusable carelessness! On the 5th of March, finding that Gen. Hardee had withdrawn from my front across the Great Pee Dee, which was probably about 500 feet broad, and as my bridge was already laid under the cover of an advance-guard, the crossing of my command at Cheraw was soon completed. We now hastened toward